

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending. By this Amendment claims 1 and 7 are amended. Claims 13 and 6 are cancelled. No new matter is introduced in this Amendment.

35 U.S.C § 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims, 1, 2, 8, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sellgren et al. (U.S. Patent 6,420,682) in view of Faloon et al. (U.S. Patent 5,575,552). The Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sellgren et al. (U.S. Patent 6,420,682) in view of Faloon et al. (U.S. Patent 5,575,552). The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sellgren et al. (U.S. Patent 6,420,682) in view of Faloon et al. (U.S. Patent 5,575,552) and further in view of Jones et al. (U.S. Patent 6,512,203). The Examiner rejected claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sellgren et al. (U.S. Patent 6,420,682) in view of Faloon et al. (U.S. Patent 5,575,552) and further in view of Gorischek (U.S. Publication US2002/0196333).

These rejections are respectfully traversed under the same reasoning cited in Applicants' response filed December 14, 2005. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution of this application, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable if rewritten in independent form with all the limitations of the base claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as well as claims 2-5 and 7-12 which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

In summary, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-5 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. As indicated above, the base claim 1 now includes the limitations of cancelled claim 6, from which claim 7 formerly depended, putting the base claim 1 in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 7 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael A. Bondi  
Registration No. 39,616

Customer No. 24113  
Patterson, Thunte, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.  
4800 IDS Center  
80 South 8th Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100  
Telephone: (612) 349-5771